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FACTS IN THE CASE

Reasons Why Democrats Refuse to Perform Their Duty.

ELECTION CONSIDERED LEGAL

A Review of the Situation, and Causes That Actuated the Republicans in Electing a New Police Commission for Astoria.

Astoria, Dec. 17.

Ed. Astorian:—F. J. Carney, R. G. Prael, and R. V. Jones, the newly elected police commissioners, appeared before the auditor and police judge, Olof Anderson, and requested him to take their oaths of office, and issue to them certificates of election. The auditor, refused to administer the oath, and refused to issue the commissions, because, forsooth, the city attorney told him not to do so. Of course the motive of the city attorney, as well as of the auditor, is well understood: their political welfare depends entirely upon the maintenance of the present police force, not only that the very existence of the democratic party is dependent upon it. Remove this force, and the democratic party, and its quondam friend "citizen" dissolves in thin air. Let the people of Astoria consider this question, regardless of factional feeling; let us taro aside the question as to what people ought of right control the republican party, and discuss this question fairly and honestly.

That the city charter, expressly provides for the election and maintenance of three police commissioners whose duties are to have control of the police force of the city, and enforce and order, and the ordinances of the city is not to be disputed. That there is not and has not been a police commission for a number of years is equally true. Who is to blame for this? Is the republican party? or is the democratic party? The charter provides, that all vacancies caused by the resignation of any official of the city, shall be filled, if police commissioner, by the mayor with the consent of a majority of the council, and shall hold office until the next general election. If any reader of this paper doubts this statement, let him examine, sections 27, 28 and 137 of the charter. Mr. S. S. Gordon, against whom there can be said no evil, was appointed by the mayor, and council, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of John Kopp; this appointment was made prior to the general city election for the year 1902; his term of office expired, if the charter is to be followed, at the general election held in this city in December, 1. But were the people allowed to select his successor? Did the council call for the election of a commissioner to fill this vacancy? not any. W. J. Cook has been absent from this city, for many years, he with his family has taken up his residence outside of the county. This has been for years. W. H. Barker has likewise removed from the city, and with his family is now living at Vancouver, B. C. Yet no sound comes from the common council. Why all this? The answer is plain, by the aid of the police force of this city, a majority of the common council are democratic, that taken with the fact that the city attorney is also democratic, or citizen, as best suits his purpose is all sufficient.

The people are considering these questions. No city will long submit to have its politics controlled by a police force, yet such is the case right here in this city, and that, too, in the face of the charter, requiring this force to be under the control of a police commission, comprised of three electors of this state, each of whom is required to be a resident and taxpayer of this city.

While the methods adopted by a few republicans may not have been the best, neither the democrats nor the citizens have an right to complain, for if the position taken by these republicans is correct, the shame and disgrace, and blame of it all rests upon the shoulders of the democratic party, and its offspring citizens, if the law is against the contention of these people then no harm can come of it, and they are to blame. But if it should turn out that they are correct, then what possible excuse have the democratic-citizens to offer, for this deliberate usurpation of power. It is up to the common council to do its duty regardless of party or small politics; the people are now awake, they propose to have a police commission, and if it is not given them by the council, the courts will surely be appealed to, and the outcome seems to be with the people.

CONSERVATIVE.

ICE MEN BROKE.

Meeting to Raise Some More Funds.

New York, Dec. 17.—A special meeting of stockholders in the American Ice company will be called shortly, it is said, to pass upon a scheme for re-organizing the finances of the concern.

The proposition which will be placed before the meeting is understood to involve the formation of a holding company and the scaling down of the present capital stock by one half. The authorized capital now is \$25,000,000, common, and \$15,000,000, preferred. The latter is six per cent cumulative and has paid no dividends in two and one half years. This is to be done, according to the plan, by an issue of new bonds.

Gamblers Lose.

New York, Dec. 17.—According to a story given out here late tonight, Police Inspector McCluskey, chief of the New York detective bureau, has received a report that two men, one from Cleveland, the other from Chicago, both wealthy, lost \$68,000 a few nights ago in a New York gambling house. Of this amount \$44,000, which had been given in checks, was recovered, but \$24,000 cash lost was not refunded. According to the story the men were introduced into the house by a person representing himself as an old friend of the Cleveland man.

Hospitals Protected.

Tokio, Dec. 17. 4 P. M.—General Stoessel has opened negotiations with the Japanese forces surrounding Port Arthur providing for the protection of the hospitals of the city. He has furnished General Nogai with a map showing the positions of the different hospitals.

Six Men Blown up.

Cincinnati, Dec. 17.—A dispatch from Ashland, Ky., says that six men were killed on the Ohio river near there by an explosion of nitroglycerine. The men were strangers, going from Sistersville, W. Va. to Maysville, Ky.

Pope is ill.

Washington, Dec. 17.—A dispatch from Rome today announces that Pope Pius is ill as the effects of an attack of gout that has rendered him lame.

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